Bangladesh. The investment decision for the facilities for transportation of natural gas to end consumers depends on the permission from Bangladesh for export of natural gas to India and the techno-economic viability.

Demand for Kerosene in A.P.

2099. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for kerosene is constantly increasing in rural and urban areas due to power shortage in Andhra Pradesh particularly in backward districts;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to hike the quota for kerosene to the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh to enable them to meet the rising demand of kerosene; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISETER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government makes kerosene allocation to the state for distribution under Public Distribution System. State Government of Andhra Pradesh undertakes distribution of the product to urban, rural and drought prone areas etc., within the allocation made by the Government.

Upgradation of Cochin Refinery

2100. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to upgrade the BPCL's Cochin refinery in this financial year; and

(b) the details of the steps including the time by when the work is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) has concluded the configuration study for the Capacity Expansion-cum-Modernisation Project, to be implemented, after approvals, in two phases.

Phase-I consists of implementation of facilities required for upgrading the motor spirit and high speed diesel to BS-II norms at the existing crude oil refining capacity of 7.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA). Phase-I is expected to be completed by January, 2005.

Phase-II consists of implementation of facilities required to upgrade motor spirit and high diesel to Euro-II norms, expansion of crude oil refining capacity by 2.5 MMTPA, and modernisation of the refinery for reducing the operating costs, Phase-II is scheduled for completion by 2010.

Contract for HBJ upgradation project

2101. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Wil the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL awarded contract recently for HBJ upgradation project (42" LSAW LINE PIPE);

(b) if so, the number of tenders received from India and from foreign countries;

(c) the reasons for rejecting reputed foreign tenders outright inspite of their low quotations; and

(d) the action proposed to enquire and fix responsibility for such irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. GAIL has received 3 tenders from Indian bidders and 9 tenders from